



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Research and
Special Programs
Administration

Vacancy Announcement

Number:
RSPA-01-21MP(bm)

Opening Date: 9/10/01

Closing Date: 10/9/01

WHAT IS THE JOB? General Engineer (Senior Inspector), GS-0801-12/13
(Five (5) positions to be filled in the Office of Pipeline Safety Regions)

DOES THE JOB HAVE PROMOTION POTENTIAL? Yes, the job has promotion potential to GS-13

WHERE IS THE JOB LOCATED?

These positions are located in the Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA) five Pipeline Safety Regions with offices in the following cities: Atlanta, GA (Southern Region); Kansas City, MO (Central Region); Washington, DC or Trenton, NJ (Eastern Region); Houston, TX or Baton Rouge, LA (Southwest Region); Anchorage, AK or Denver, CO (Western Region). At least one position will be filled in each of the five Regions. Additional positions may be filled as vacancies occur.

Telecommuting Option: Candidates selected for appointment are eligible to participate in RSPA's telecommuting program which enables eligible employees to work from home or other approved worksite.

WHAT IS THE SALARY?

\$49,830 for GS-12, step 1, through \$73,129 for GS-12, step 10, depending on duty location
\$57,345 for GS-13, step 1, through \$86,974 for GS-13, step 10, depending on duty location

Alaska: In addition to the base salary rate, a 25% cost of living allowance is paid for Alaska duty stations.

WHO MAY APPLY? Federal Career and Career Conditional Employees

WHO ARE WE?

The Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) is the Department of Transportation's research, safety and transportation systems administration, responsible for addressing issues related to all modes of transportation (car, sea, air, rail, pipeline) relative to the safe, effective and efficient transportation of people and goods throughout the world. In contrast to the other DOT operating administrations that focus on specific sectors of the US transportation system, RSPA's mission concentrates on the system as a whole.

The Mission of the Research and Special Programs Administration is to make America's transportation systems more integrated, effective and secure by conducting and fostering cross-cutting research and special programs to enhance the quality of life, safety, the environment and the economic well-being of all Americans.

WHAT ARE THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES?

As a pipeline safety inspector in the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) Regional office, the employee conducts safety program reviews and engineering analyses and evaluations of potential natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline safety regulatory deficiencies. Reviews the design and specifications for natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline systems under construction or repair to assure conformance with regulations, and conducts studies and engineering analyses of pipeline safety issues involved in the development of Federal regulations and industry guidance. Conducts or leads investigations for determining causes of major catastrophic gas/liquid pipeline failures. Conducts risk assessment designed to improve OPS' safety oversight of a rapidly changing industry and to increase compliance with Federal pipeline safety standards. Recommends corrective actions for the resolution of issues arising from administration of the compliance program.

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS?

Applicants must have one year of specialized experience at or equivalent to the next lower grade level. **Specialized experience**: Experience that equipped the candidate with the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities (KSA's) to perform the duties of the position, and is typically in or related to the position to be filled. To be creditable, specialized experience must be equivalent to at least the next lower grade level in the normal line of progression for the occupation in the organization. For additional information, please refer to Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) Qualification Standards Handbook for General Schedule Positions, which is available for review in most Federal employment offices.

Applicants must also meet the following Educational Requirement:

A. Professional Engineering degree: To be acceptable, the curriculum must: (1) be in a school of engineering with at least one curriculum accredited by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) as a professional engineering curriculum; or (2) include differential and integral calculus and courses (more advanced than first-year physics and chemistry) in five of the following seven areas of engineering science or physics: (a) statics, dynamics; (b) strength of materials (stress-strain relationships); (c) fluid mechanics, hydraulics; (d) thermodynamics; (e) electrical fields and circuits; (f) nature and properties of materials (relating particle and aggregate structure to properties); and (g) any other comparable area of fundamental engineering science or physics, such as optics, heat transfer, soil mechanics, or electronics.

OR

B. Combination of education and experience - college level education, training, and/or technical experience that furnished (1) a thorough knowledge of the physical and mathematical sciences underlying professional engineering, and (2) a good understanding, both theoretical and practical, of the engineering sciences and techniques and their applications to one of the branches of engineering. The adequacy of such background must be demonstrated by one of the following:

1. Professional Registration.

2. Written Test. Evidence of having successfully passed the Engineer-in-Training (EIT) examination, or the written test required for professional registration, which is administered by the Boards of Engineering Examiners in the various states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

3. Specified academic courses. Successful completion of at least 60 semester hours of courses in the physical,

mathematical, and engineering sciences and in engineering, which included the courses specified in the basic requirement. The courses must be fully acceptable toward meeting the requirements of a professional engineering curriculum as described in the basic requirements.

4. Related curriculum. Successful completion of a curriculum leading to a Bachelor's degree in engineering technology or in an appropriate professional field, e.g., physics, chemistry, architecture, computer science, mathematics, hydrology, or geology may be accepted in lieu of a degree in engineering, provided the applicant has at least 1 year of professional engineering experience acquired under professional engineering supervision and guidance.

Additional Requirement: This position requires overnight travel away from the normal duty station approximately 50% of the time. Applicants must indicate availability for significant travel to be eligible for consideration.

HOW WILL YOU BE RATED? Applicants who meet the Minimum Qualification Requirements above will be further evaluated based on their experience, education and training shown in their application as it relates to Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSA's) listed below. For each KSA you should provide a separate supplemental statement describing specifically and accurately what experience, training, education, knowledge and/or awards you have received that are relevant to each factor. Supplemental statements are to be typed with your name, social security number, and the announcement number at the top of each additional page.

Your application must indicate in detail how your experience and/or qualifications demonstrate the following KSAs:

1. Practical knowledge of current safety practices and operating procedures utilized by the pipeline industry.
2. Practical knowledge of Federal and State policies and procedures resulting from provisions of the pipeline safety law (Title 49, Chapter 601, United States Code).
3. Skill in oral and written communications, especially as they relate to providing technical advice and assistance to others.

Failure to address the KSAs will affect your rating and may result in loss of consideration.

WHAT OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION SHOULD YOU KNOW?

The following statements are applicable if checked:

- ☒ **X** Requires a Security Clearance
- ☐ Subject to supervisory/managerial probationary period
- ☒ **X** Subject to pre-employment drug testing and random drug testing during employment
- ☒ **X** Subject to Financial Disclosure
- ☒ **X** If filled below full performance level, may be promoted without further competition

- ☒ X Relocation expenses WILL NOT be paid
- ☒ X You must identify the grade level(s) for which you desire consideration on the application submitted or in the cover letter. Failure to specify your interest in a grade level or multiple grade levels, will result in consideration at only the highest level for which you qualify.
- ☐ X Applicants must specify the location for which they are applying. Those who wish to apply for more than one location **must submit a separate application for each location**. (Any applications received without a location specified will not be considered.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. U.S. citizenship is required.
2. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements within 30 days of closing date of the announcement.
3. Applications submitted in postage-paid Government envelopes will not be accepted.
4. Male applicants over 18 and born after December 31, 1959, must be registered with the Selective Service System or have an exemption. If selected, confirmation of selective service registration status is required before entering on duty.

HOW TO APPLY:

If you are or have been a Federal employee, please submit a copy of your last Notification of Personnel Action, Form SF-50 (other than an award), and your most recent or last performance appraisal.

If you are a status applicant who wants to be considered under OPM competitive procedures, you must submit two (2) complete applications. If only one application is received, it will be considered under merit promotion procedures.

If claiming 5 point veterans' preference, a DD-214 must be submitted. If claiming 10 point veterans' preference, you must submit a DD-214 and either an SF-15 with a VA letter dated within the last 12 months certifying your disability OR an official document issued by the armed forces documenting the award of a Purple Heart.

If you are a Federal employee or former Federal employee who has special priority selection rights under Agency Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP), or Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP), you must submit a copy of the agency notice, a copy of your most recent performance Rating and a copy of your most recent SF-50. You must be well-qualified for the position to receive consideration for special priority selection.

S A well-qualified employee must satisfy the following criteria:

- (1) Meet the basic qualification standards and eligibility requirements for the position, including any medical qualifications, suitability, and minimum educational and experience requirements.
- (2) Meet all selective factors and meets the "good" level range of a three or four level crediting plans for all knowledge, skills and abilities (KSA's) rating factors for the position. In the absence of selective factor and/or KSA's, selecting officials or subject matter experts will document the job-related reason(s) the

eligible employee is/is not considered to be well-qualified.

If you are applying for an appointment under special hiring authority, such as Veteran's Employment Opportunity Act of 1998 (VEOA), Thirty Percent or More Disabled Veteran Appointment, Veterans' Readjustment Appointment (VRA), Severely Physically Disabled Schedule A Appointment, Former Peace Corps Appointment, or others, you must submit required proof of eligibility.

If your application is submitted by mail, it must be postmarked by the closing date of the announcement to receive consideration. Hand-delivered applications must be received by the closing date.

Applications mailed using government postage are in violation of agency and postal regulations and will not be accepted.

Materials submitted as a part of your application will not be returned.

You must submit an Application for Federal Employment (OF-612), SF-171, resume, or other written application format of your choice. Be sure you provide all of the information requested below:

Job Information:

- Announcement Number, title and grade(s) for which you are applying.

Personal Information:

- Full name, the mailing address (with zip code), day and evening telephone numbers (with area code). - Social Security Number.
- Country of Citizenship.
- If ever employed by the Federal Government, please show the highest Federal civilian grade held, job series, and dates of employment in the grade.

Education:

- High School name, city, state and zip code, date of diploma or GED.
- Colleges and/or Universities attended, city, state and zip code.
- Major field(s) of study.
- Type and year of degree(s) received. If no degree received, show the total credit hours received in semester or quarter hours.
- If using education to qualify, submit a copy of college transcripts.

Work Experience for each paid or non paid position held related to the job for which you are applying (do not provide copies of job descriptions):

- Job title.
- Duties and accomplishments.
- Number of hours per week.
- Employer's name and address.
- Supervisor's name and phone number.
- Starting and ending dates of employment (month, day, and year).

- Beginning and ending salary.
- Indicate if your current supervisor may be contacted.

For additional information about this position please contact:

Almaz Beyene at (202) 366-5608

Please submit your application package to:

Research and Specials Programs Administration
Office of Human Resources Management, Room 7424
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

The Research and Special Programs Administration is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Selection for this position will be made solely on the basis of merit, fitness, and qualifications without regard to race, gender, color, religion, age, marital status, national origin, non-disqualifying disability conditions, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factors.

SUPERVISORY APPRAISAL OF POTENTIAL PERFORMANCE

PLEASE HAVE THIS APPRAISAL COMPLETED BY YOUR SUPERVISOR
SUBMIT IT WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

ANNOUNCEMENT NO.: 01-21(bm)

POSITION: Gen Engr, (Insp) GS-801-12/13

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

BASIS FOR APPRAISAL				RANKING FACTORS (Knowledges, skills, abilities, and personal characteristics)	LEVEL OF POTENTIAL PERFORMANCE				
Check One					Please mark X as appropriate:				
Outside	On the Job	Formal	Unable to		Exceptio	Super	Satisfac	Weak	Non
				1. Practical knowledge of current safety practices and operating procedures utilized by the pipeline industry.					
				2. Practical knowledge of Federal and State policies and procedures resulting from provisions of the pipeline safety law (Title 49, Chapter 601, United States Code).					
				3. Skill in oral and written communications, especially as they relate to providing technical advice and assistance to others.					

IN WHAT CAPACITY ARE YOU MAKING THIS APPRAISAL? (Please check as appropriate)

☐ Present Immediate Supervisor
 ☐ Present 2nd Level Supervisor
 ☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Former Immediate Supervisor
 ☐ Former 2nd Level Supervisor

Period Covered by this Appraisal:

Appraiser:

(Signature)
(Date)
(Telephone Number)

(If this appraisal is submitted directly by the appraiser, the applicant, upon request, will be permitted to review and obtain a copy of it.)

